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"UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS"

Episode #16.

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11:30 to 12:30 P.M.C.S.T.

APRIL 21, 1932

THURSDAY

ANNOUNCER:        "Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers!"

(ORCHESTRA:QUARTET)

ANNOUNCER:    Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers, the wearers of the pine tree badge, are with us again today. The national forests, which these rangers manage and protect, still contain large areas of rough, mountainous country into which no roads have ever penetrated. Since the national forest were established, the United States Forest Service has been constantly improving and extending the forest road and trail system, to make timbered areas accessible for protection, to facilitate administration, and to open up new areas for wise and conservative use in the public interest. And so today we find Forest Ranger Jim Robbins, and his young assistant, Jerry Quick, preparing to go up in the mountains to survey a location for a new trail. Here they are at the Pine Cone Ranger Station, just finishing breakfast --



JIM: Better get that tummy of yours loaded up with flapjacks, Jerry. We've got a long day ahead.

JERRY: Gosh, Mr. Robbins -- I mean Jim -- I'm loaded up now.

JIM: (chuckles) Still want to "Mister" me, don't you?

JERRY: Oh no. It just slips out every now and then. -- I'm not trying to be high-hat, or anything.

(Jim chuckles)

BESS: (coming up) Here, Jerry. Here's a couple of fresh pancakes, just off the stove.

JERRY: Oh thanks, Mrs. Robbins, but I'm full up. Honest.

BESS: Oh, Jerry. Just one more.

JERRY: They're swell pancakes all right, Mrs. Robbins, but if I eat any more my horse won't be able to carry me.

JIM: (chuckles) Well now, we don't want you to go making a sway-back out of that high-steppin' new horse of yours, but I reckon one or two more flapjacks won't make you too heavy for 'im. Better tackle 'em, Jerry. When I was your age --

BESS: (cutting in) I should say! When Jim was your age you should have seen him. I never saw anyone eat so many flapjacks.

JERRY: You'd better take these, Jim.

JIM: No, you eat 'em, Jerry. I had more'n my quota when I was young. -- I'll get the old pipe fired up while you're finishing 'em off.

JERRY: All right. I guess I can stand a couple more.

BESS: That's good, Jerry. Here's the butter.



JERRY: Thanks, -- And the syrup, too, please.

BESS: Here you are.

JIM: Hum. Guess my matches're in the pocket of my coat.

JERRY: Here's a match -- Jim.

JIM: Thanks. (puffs at lighting pipe) -- Bess -- I s'pose wise parents never let their young daughters go out alone.

BESS: Well, no, I s'pose not. Why?

JIM: (chuckles) Well, I was just thinkin' -- A wise woodsman always puts his match out -- see? -- He never lets his match go out alone.

JERRY: (laughs) That's pretty good. "Don't let your match go out alone." I'll remember that. It'll be good to tell the campers this summer when we're talking about preventing forest fires.

JIM: Yeah. -- Speaking of forest fires, I see where my friend Ranger Brown -- he's on the Coconino National Forest in Arizona -- was claimin' he was getting one hundred per cent cooperation from the residents around there when it comes to putting out fire. --

BESS: It sounds too good to be true.

JIM: Well, anyway, he said he got a report of a lightning fire the other day, so he set out after it.

(chuckles) When he got there, he found that a flock of wild turkeys had scratched a line clean around the fire and ne... left till they say help coming.

(BESS AND JERRY LAUGHS)





BESS: You ought to train your wild animals to fight fire on this forest.

JIM: Well, I dunno. We have a hard enough time with the human beings.

JERRY: Well -- Now I feel like I'd eaten enough to last me a month.

BESS: I didn't notice you had much trouble with those last two pancakes.

JERRY: (laughs) No. They weren't so hard to take. -- Well, bring on your work, Jim.

JIM: You'll likely be needin' a good breakfast, all right. Surveying trail location ain't such easy work.

JERRY: Any harder than plantin' trees.

JIM: No, I reckon not.

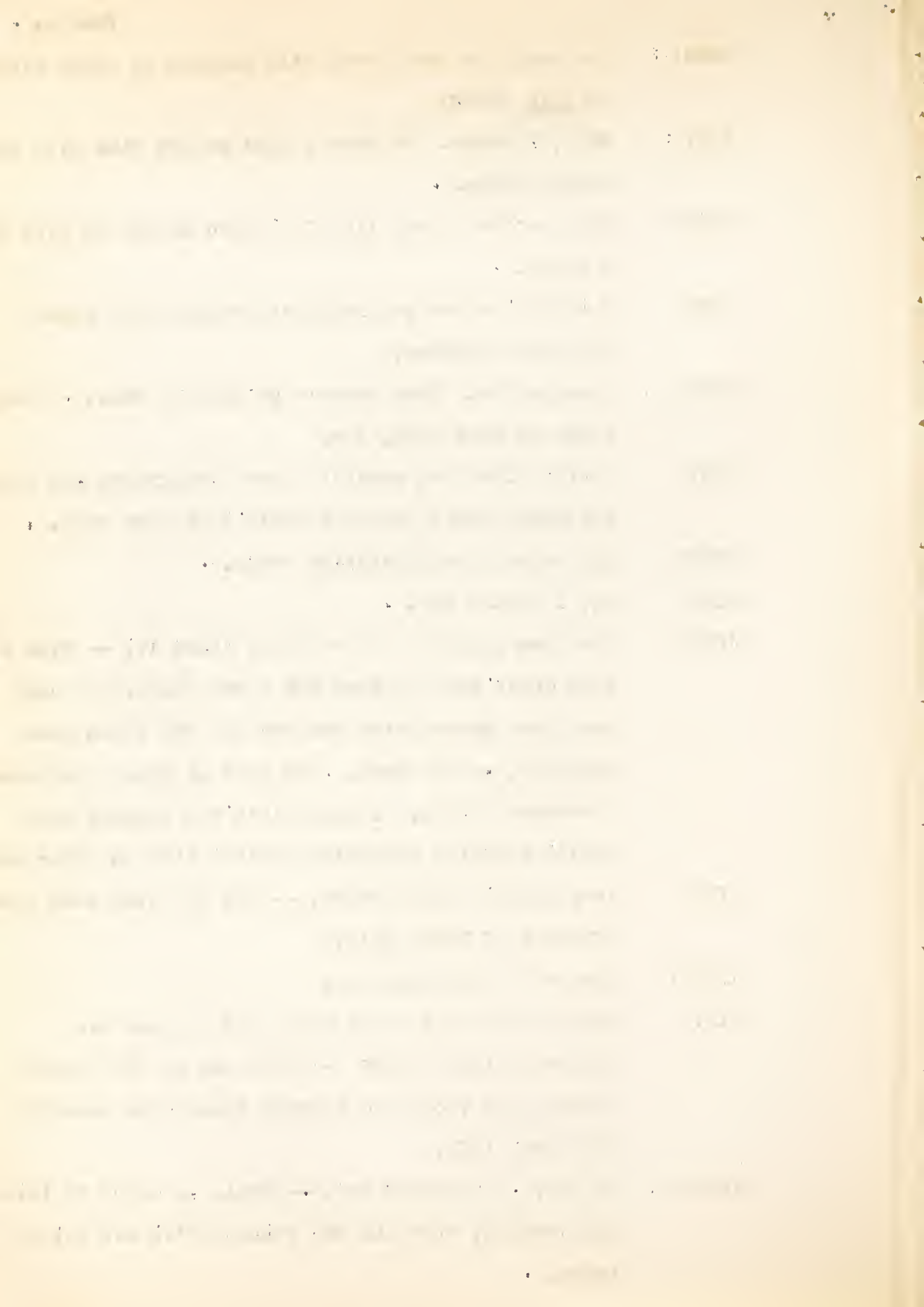
JERRY: That was plenty tough -- but I liked it. -- Even if they don't show up much for a few years, you can come back years later and see how the trees have grown up. -- You know. You sort of have a personal interest in 'em. I guess it's the thought that you're creating something that'll live on after you.

JIM: Yes, you're right, Jerry. -- Did you ever read the "Travels of Marco Polo?"

JERRY: Yes. -- A long time ago.

JIM: Remember how the Great Khan used to have his subjects plant trees? -- There was an old Chinese legend that those who planted trees were rewarded with long life.

JERRY: Oh yes. I remember now. -- Well, we ought to live long enough, with all the trees we 've set out up there.



JIM: There might be something in it, at that. It's good, healthful outdoor work. -- At any rate, it'll mean longer life for the country hereabouts.

JERRY: You mean these trees will help to hold the soil in place -- on the watershed?

JIM: That's it. -- Hold the soil and keep the water from running away. -- Well Jerry, seein' as you've got plenty of flapjacks under the belt, you'd better get Dolly and that handsome new steed of yours saddled up. I'll be getting the stuff together to take along.

JERRY: Okay, Jim. I'll have the horses ready pronto.

JIM: Well, Bess. Take care of yourself. -- We'll probably be late getting back for supper.

BESS: (bantering) Oh, you will? I'm so glad you told me. (laughs) If you ever got back on time for supper, Jim Robbins, I'd never get over the shock.

(FADEOUT WITH JIM CHUCKLING)

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

JIM: You didn't forget to put the nosebags on the horses, did you Jerry?

JERRY: (off) No, I put 'em on a long time ago. -- Ouch, It's plenty steep here.

JIM: (calls) Hey, go easy up there. -- I ain't hankerin' after any rocks coming down on my head.

JERRY: (off) 'Scuse me, Jim. Did I knock some rocks loose?

JIM: Well, you started a couple of pebbles rollin' this way. -- Move down a little, Jerry. You're too high up.



JERRY: (off) All right. -- How's this?

JIM: Let me get a sight on yuh. -- We wanta keep the maximum grade on this trail down to ten per cent. -- Yeah. That's all right. Put a stake in there.

JERRY: (off) Okay.

(SOUND OF DRIVING STAKE - OFF)

JIM: That's good -- I bet this is going to be a popular trail with hikers.

JERRY: (coming up) Yeah. Overlooking the river here -- it'll make a nice hike.

JIM: And besides that -- it'll open up this neck of the woods for quick travel in case a fire breaks out up in here.

JERRY: Yeah. It'd sure be tough going through here without a trail, if you had to get to a fire in a hurry.

JIM: We've still got lots of road and trail to build on this forest yet, Jerry, before we'll have every area of high fire hazard accessible. -- And hitting the fires while they're young is the only way to keep 'em down.

JERRY: We'll keep 'em down this year, all right.

JIM: We'll do our durndest, son. -- Well, now, let's see. -- That rock bluff there is going to make it tough going from here on.

JERRY: Can't we take the trail up over it -- up that way?

JIM: It's pretty steep, Jerry. We'd have to zig-zag up the slope.





JERRY: I guess we would, at that.

JIM: We want to cut out the switch-backs wherever we can, you know.

JERRY: Well, how about going around in front of the bluff? We can take the trail along that ledge there as far as it goes, and then blast out the rest of the way.

JIM: That wouldn't be bad, except when you get around on the other side you run into a lot of slide rock.

JERRY: Oh, That wouldn't be so good, either. -- Which way would you say to go?

JIM: Well now -- we might be able to take a long slant up the slope that way. That's bring us out on top up there behind the rock escarpment, and we could go on across above the rock slide.

JERRY: That's the way to do it, all right. -- Let's see. I'll go up there so you can take a sight.

JIM: That's right. -- Before we start working this out, though, you'd better chase down and take the nosebags off the horses.

JERRY: Sure. -- Say, I'm getting to like that new horse of mine better all the time. Did you notice how much life he had in him? Coming up this morning, I could hardly hold him back.

JIM: Spark's a first rate horse all right.

JERRY: (going off) I'll say! -- Well, I'll be back in a minute.

JIM: All right. Better water the horses while you're down there.

(PAUSE)





JERRY: (calls from distance) Oh Jim. -- Look.

JIM: What's the matter?

JERRY: Spark's trying to get a drink in the river - with his nosebag on.

JIM: You want to always tie up your horse when you put a nosebag on him, Jerry. -- Hurry up, or he'll get the bag full of water.

JERRY: (shouts as he goes off) Hey, Spark! -- Get away from there! -- Spark! -- (calls from distance) Hey, Jim! Come 'ere quick!

JIM: (calls, while running) Grab 'im, Jerry - if you can! -- He's got his nosebag full of water -- it's stranglin' 'im.

JERRY: (off) Whoa! Spark!

(SOUND OF HORSE PLUNGING)

JIM: Look out for his feet, Jerry! The water scared 'im.

JERRY: Whoa! Gosh, you can't touch him the way he's plungin' around! (SOUND OF SPLASH) Look! He jumped in the river! Spark! Come back here! -- What'll we do, Jim?

JIM: Get the lasso-rope off my saddle, Jerry! I'm going in after him.

JERRY: Let me go! I can swim.

JIM: Go to it! -- Slip off your coat first. -- That's right, -- I'll get the rope.

JERRY: Here goes! (SPLASH)



JIM: (shouts) He's swimming down stream, Jerry!  
 You can catch 'im. -- Look out he don't strike  
 you with his hoofs! Keep to the side of 'im --  
 Just slip the nose bag off his head, Jerry! --  
 That's the boy, Jerry! Good work! -- No, don't  
 try to hold 'im! Let 'im swim ashore by himself.

JERRY: (off - gulping) Hey Jim! -- He got me -- with his  
 hoof -- knocked the wind -- out --

JIM: Stick your arm up! I'm gonna rope you. -- That's  
 it! (SWISH OF LARIAT) -- There y'are. -- No,  
 don't try to grab it. I gotcha roped like a  
 maverick. -- There y'are, boy (SPALSHING AS JERRY  
 IS PULLED OUT OF WATER.)

JERRY: (Gulping, winded) Thanks -- Jim. --

JIM: Here. Lemme get the rope of yuh. -- That's all  
 right -- stay there 'n get your wind.

JERRY: (still winded) Where's -- Spark?

JIM: He's swimmin' ashore all right. I better rope 'im  
 as come out -- 'fore he runs off -- (SWISH OF  
 LARIAT) There! That got 'im.

(SOUND OF HORSE PLUNGING AND SPLASHING) (calls) Whoa,  
 Spark! That's all right, old boy. (PLUNGING LESSENS)  
 Whoa. Quite, old boy. -- (SOUND OF PATTING  
 HORSE'S NECK) Poor fellow. About scared to death,  
 ain't you?

JERRY: (coming up) Is he -- all right?

JIM: Just frightened from the water stranglin' 'im --  
 that's all. -- Got your wind back, Jerry?

JERRY: Yeah -- partly. -- Look at the way Spark is shaking!



JIM: He'll be all right in a minute. -- I'll tie 'im up along side Dolly here. That'll calm 'im down. -- Whoa Spark (SOUND OF HORSE SHYING A LITTLE) -- Whoa, boy. -- There you are -- whoa now. -- Jerry, you get those wet clothes of yours off, while I build a fire.

JERRY: All right. -- Say, -- I didn't know you were as handy with a lariat as all that. Gee! You threw that loop around my arm as nice as you please!

JIM: (chuckles) I've had to handle a rope before, Jerry. -- Well, son, you had a narrow squeak that time. -- Came mighty near losing that new horse of yours.

JERRY: I know. -- It sure would've busted me up to lose Spark -- I like that horse a lot.

JIM: He's a good horse all right.

JERRY: And say, Jim, I'm mighty grateful to you for pulling us out of the river that way.

JIM: (chuckles) Not me. You'll have to thank yourself, Jerry. If you hadn't jumped in and pulled the nosebag off 'im, your horse would've drowned sure.

(FADEOUT)





ANNOUNCER: Well, folks, it was a close call, but Jerry still has his horse, that he's so proud of. -- It looks like Ranger Jim's and Jerry's surveying work for the new trail was somewhat interrupted today, but we trust they will soon finish the job, and before long there will be another trail opened up in the national forest. Roads and trails in the national forest are essential for efficient administration and adequate protection, as well as for opening up desirable areas for recreationists and other forest users. Since the national forests were established, more than twenty-two thousand miles of road and sixty-two thousand miles of trail have been constructed. And the work is still going on each year, so that the national forests will be of constantly increasing value and benefit to the public.

Forest Ranger Jim Robbins and Jerry Quick will be with us again next Thursday. Tune in at this same hour. "Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers" comes to you as a presentation of the National Broadcasting Company, with the cooperation of the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

The role of Ranger Jim is played by Harvey Hays. Others in today's cast were:

is-12:15  
April 16, 1932.

